

November 2016



Missouri FSA Newsletter

Missouri Farm Service Agency

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To find contact information
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www.fsa.usda.gov/mo.

Click [here](#) for the Missouri
Department of
Conservation Covey
Headquarters newsletter.

Deadline to Report Wheat & Other Fall-Seeded Small Grains is Dec. 15

December 15, 2016, is the final reporting date for barley, fall wheat, and all other fall-seeded small grains.

An accurate and complete crop certification report is required to be eligible for FSA programs, including Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs), Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs.

FSA Urges Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections

USDA encourages farmers and ranchers to make their voices heard by voting in the upcoming Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee elections. Ballots have been mailed to eligible farmers and ranchers across the country. Ballots must be postmarked or returned to the local FSA office by **Dec. 5, 2016**.

Producers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program to be eligible to vote in the county committee election. Farmers and ranchers who supervise and conduct the farming operations of an entire farm, but are not of legal voting age, also may be eligible to vote.

Ballots include the names of candidates running for the local committee election. Voters who do not receive ballots in the coming week can pick one up at their local FSA office. Not every producer will receive a ballot. Only those producers residing in the Local Administrative Area having an election received a ballot. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than Dec. 5, 2016. Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2017.

For more information, visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections or contact your local County FSA office.

Margin Protection Program for Dairy Enrollment Deadline is Dec. 16

The deadline for dairy producers to enroll in the Margin Protection Program (MPP) for Dairy is Dec. 16, 2016. This voluntary dairy safety net program, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, provides financial assistance to participating dairy producers when the margin – the difference between the price of milk and feed costs – falls below the coverage level selected by the producer. A USDA web tool, available at www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool, allows dairy producers to calculate levels of coverage available from MPP based on price projections.

USDA Announces Enrollment Period for Safety Net Coverage in 2017

Producers on farms with base acres under the safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, can begin visiting FSA county offices starting Nov. 1, 2016, to sign contracts and enroll for the 2017 crop year. The enrollment period will continue until Aug. 1, 2017.

Since shares and ownership of a farm can change year-to-year, producers on the farm must enroll by signing a contract each program year.

If a farm is not enrolled during the 2017 enrollment period, the producers on that farm will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs for the 2017 crop should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program.

Producers who made their elections in 2015 must still enroll during the 2017 enrollment period.

The ARC and PLC programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered commodities. Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain and sweet rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity. For more details regarding these programs, go to www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

For more information, producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

USDA Announces Streamlined Guaranteed Loans and Additional Lender Category for Small-Scale Operators

Options Help More Beginning, Small and Urban Producers Gain Access to Credit

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the availability of a streamlined version of USDA guaranteed loans, which are tailored for smaller scale farms and urban producers. The program, called EZ Guarantee Loans, uses a simplified application process to help beginning, small,

underserved and family farmers and ranchers apply for loans of up to \$100,000 from USDA-approved lenders to purchase farmland or finance agricultural operations.

USDA also unveiled a new category of lenders that will join traditional lenders, such as banks and credit unions, in offering USDA EZ Guarantee Loans. Microlenders, which include Community Development Financial Institutions and Rural Rehabilitation Corporations, will be able to offer their customers up to \$50,000 of EZ Guarantee Loans, helping to reach urban areas and underserved producers. Banks, credit unions and other traditional USDA-approved lenders, can offer customers up to \$100,000 to help with agricultural operation costs.

EZ Guarantee Loans offer terms up to seven years for financing operating expenses and 40 years for financing the purchase of farm real estate. USDA-approved lenders can issue these loans with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) guaranteeing the loan up to 95 percent.

USDA is providing a 90-day period for the public to review and comment on program improvements. To review program details, visit www.regulations.gov, reference RIN 0560-AI34 and follow the instructions to submit comments.

More than half of all FSA loans go to new farmers and more than a quarter to underserved borrowers. FSA also offers loans of up to \$5,000 to young farmers and ranchers through the Youth Loan Program. Loans are made to eligible youth to finance agricultural projects, with almost 9,000 young people now participating. More information about the available types of FSA farm loans can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans or by contacting your local FSA office. To find your nearest office location, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

USDA Climate Hub Building Block: Nitrogen Stewardship

USDA Climate Hubs are working with farmers, livestock producers, pasture and forest landowners to effectively partner in ways to help mitigate and adapt to a changing climate. Next in our series on the 10 Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry is Nitrogen Stewardship.

Within the United States, agriculture is a significant source of nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions—a greenhouse gas (GHG) that has a global warming potential 250 times more than carbon dioxide (CO₂). In 2013, cropland agriculture released approximately 136 MMTCO₂e (Million Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide-Equivalent) in direct N₂O emissions. More than half of these N₂O emissions are from synthetic fertilizers and organic amendments. Improved nitrogen management practices can reduce emissions from these sources.

The primary practice used in the Nitrogen Stewardship Building Block to reduce GHG emissions involves the 4Rs: right source, right rate, right time, and right place. The 4Rs come from the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Nutrient Management (590). To read more about Nitrogen Stewardship click the following link or copy and paste the link into your web browser: http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate_change/building_blocks/2_NitrogenStewardship.pdf

For more information about the USDA Climate Hubs click here: <http://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/>.

Dates to Remember and Interest Rates

Selected Interest Rates for November 2016	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.125
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.250
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50
Emergency Loans	3.125
Farm Storage Facility Loans (3 years)	1.00
Farm Storage Facility Loans (5 years)	1.25
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	1.50
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	1.75
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)	1.75
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.625

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 20	NAP application closing date for apples, apricots, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums and blueberries.
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Day Holiday. USDA offices are closed.
Dec. 5	Last day to postmark or return voted ballots for the County Committee election to the FSA county office.
Dec. 15	Final date to report fall barley, fall wheat & all other fall-seeded small grains.
Dec. 16	Deadline for enrollment for 2017 coverage in the Margin Protection Program (MPP-Dairy)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).